

## Introduction

The bi-weekly newsletter is intended to keep you in the loop with what's going on in the department, introduce the 2020-2021 executive team, and share relevant information. Help us populate these newsletters! If you see a CFP, virtual/digital event, professionalization opportunity you would like other grad students like you to know about, please send this information to [sage@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sage@uwaterloo.ca)

We would also like to invite you to the SAGE discord channel! Get updates easily, talk to others in the program, and speak with the executive team directly: [discord.gg/mUdPxJ64SG](https://discord.gg/mUdPxJ64SG)

## On the "To-Do" List

- The new SAGE Website is currently under construction and will be completed with the help of our executive team. While we have an idea of what we would like to offer, we are always open to suggestions! If there is something you would like to see on our website, please email our Co-President, Sabrina, at [sasgandu@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sasgandu@uwaterloo.ca)
- Looking to improve student assessment in the Fall 2020 and/or Winter 2021 terms? The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE's) has an Assessment Design Café (CTE7529) Friday, November 20, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Register via GoSignMeUp. For more details, see: <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/events/assessment-design-cafe-cte7529-2>

## Profile of the Week: Getting to Know Your SAGE Executives

### *Sadia Afrin - International Student Representative*



I am Sadia Afrin, the International Student Representative. I am a second year PhD student from the RCD stream. Being a fortunate traveler across North American academia as a Transnational student, I am well equipped with multidimensional experiences. Originally, I am from Bangladesh! My research areas include Writing Studies, Critical pedagogy, and Post-colonial studies. I am interested in how complex identities from diasporic and marginalized backgrounds can practice their cultural and political freedom in writing at Canadian Higher Education?

Dear International and Transnational colleagues, I am your go-to person for any shared difficulties, information, discussions, ideas, contributions, and connections to make our Graduate student life strong, enjoyable, and meaningful together with SAGE.

Communicating and negotiating with our department with your voices, concerns, and rights are my core responsibility and commitment.

I cannot exist and function without your active participation in seeking necessary changes and facilitating opportunities for our true potential. In short, I am responsible for informing and working with SAGE, bringing in the critical and valuable perspectives that you all have to offer. You can reach out to me via email at [s5afrin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:s5afrin@uwaterloo.ca)

I am also open for phone and video chats as per your preferences.

## Important Announcements

- Have you experienced racial trauma? Understand your [options for academic accommodations](#) related to traumatic experiences based on race. Check out these [Anti-Racism resources](#) made available by the Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion team has compiled, and/or information about the [University's anti-racism initiatives](#).
- **Message from the Chair, Associate Chairs, and administrative staff:** "You may have heard about a university memo that expressed a position about the ongoing graduate student unionization drive. We want to emphasize that this is students' decision to make, and that the department will support student autonomy in all aspects of the unionization process."

## Scholarships & Professionalization - Upcoming Events, Opportunities, and Deadlines!

In need of funding? The [Graduate Studies Endowment Fund \(GSEF\)](#), has an *on-going commitment to enhance the learning, research, and overall experience of graduate students at the University*, and works to provide financial supports for graduate students through [project funding](#), [COVID-19 relief](#), [travel awards \(including online conferences\)](#), etc. They also contribute to the [Graduate Student Thesis Completion Award](#), and routinely recruit students to sit on their Project Review Committee and Board of Directors, as well as carry out the day-to-day operations of GSEF itself, both excellent [opportunities](#) for students to get involved.

Remember to check out the [DiMarco Graduate Scholarship in Computational Rhetoric](#). This scholarship is valued at \$2,500 and is awarded annually to a full time Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or international graduate student registered with the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science or the Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo, and with a demonstrated area of interest in computational rhetoric. Contact Denise Shantz at [denise.shantz@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:denise.shantz@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions or submit your application by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Interested in improving your acceptance rate to peer-reviewed journals? Are you looking for an introduction to the world of academic publishing or want to learn more about the *dos* and *don'ts* of manuscript preparation and submission? [Register](#) for the Water Institute's "Get Published: Tips from Editors-in-Chief (Live Webinar)." Held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST. See : <https://uwaterloo.ca/water-institute/events/waterleadership-get-published-tips-editors-chief-live> for details.

As part of the UWinterloo program, the International Student Experience team is piloting a pen pal program this winter holidays, where international students are matched with staff, faculty, alumni, and domestic students for the month of December. Register if you would like to participate: <https://uwaterloo.ca/student-success/international-student-resources/uwinterloo>

The [Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature And Language Studies \(CACLALS\)](#) has put out a CFP for their virtual conference at Congress 2021. Proposals are due by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Check out some of the virtual workshops the [Writing and Communication Center \(WCC\)](#) is offering this term!

## Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Consider dropping by the [Grad Student Community and Conversation Circle](#) for a safe space to discuss the stress of graduate school and/or relationships. Open to all graduate students at UW. No referral needed. The next meeting is from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (EST) on October 22nd, 2020. Register on [GoSignMeUp](#).

Are you a MA Co-op student who is feeling stressed, pressured and/or isolated on your work or recruiting term? Find 1:1 mental health support and prepare for your current/future work terms, [here](#).

Health Services is providing [flu immunizations starting November 09](#) to help make it easy and convenient to get your flu vaccine and help stop the spread of influenza. This service is available by appointment only. To book an appointment please call 519-888-4096.

Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or like you need to talk to somebody? Contact the University's [Campus Wellness services](#). There are also various community supports available: [K-W Counselling, Here 24/7](#) - 1-844-437-3247, [Good2Talk](#) - 1-866-925-5454, [Crisis Services Canada](#) - 1-833-456-4566 or by text 45645.

Check out the "[Healthy Warriors at Home](#)" page of the Department of Athletics and Recreation's website for information regarding Virtual Personal Training sessions, nutritional tips, and more.

Join your fellow Warriors, from now until December 2020 in the Warriors vs. Laurier Blood Donation Battle. Donate blood and help us win against Laurier for a second year in a row. [Set up a profile](#) or add the PFL code: UNIV960995 to your account if you have a blood.ca account already. Questions? Contact [WarriorsInfo@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:WarriorsInfo@uwaterloo.ca)

Want to make a difference in the Waterloo Region? Consider joining the [University Christmas Project](#). The University is looking for individuals or units to take on families in need and/or sponsor children. If interested in sponsoring a child, please reach out to Christian Girodat by email to [ceedco44@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ceedco44@uwaterloo.ca).

Overwhelmed by the news cycle from the recent US Election? The Library's [published resource guide](#) on how to avoid information overload may be just the thing to help you out.

The SAGE executive.

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